

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Serial No.:	10/712,554	Confirmation No.:	9161
Applicant(s):	Hiroyuki Shinbata	Group Art Unit:	2624
		Examiner:	Claire X. Wang
Filed:	November 12, 2003	Customer No.:	27123
For:	IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS, IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD, STORAGE MEDIUM AND PROGRAM		

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop **AF**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Responsive to the Final Office Action (Paper No./Mail Date: 20070702) dated July 12, 2007, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the following Amendments and Remarks. A request for continued examination (RCE) has been filed herewith.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper; and

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 4 of this paper.